

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 03363 010925Z

14/12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-10 /082 W

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P R 280836Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1130

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

DIA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3363

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LAST PARA NUMBERED 4 VICE 5)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, CB, VN, US

SUBJECT: THE THAI QUESTION THE VALUE OF DETENTE

REF: A. FBIS BK 270220Z FEB 75; B. FBIS BK 280206Z FEB 75

1. PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT, FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAIRATTAKUN, AND DEFENSE MINISTER THAWIT SENIWONG NA AYUTTHAYA ALL TOLD THE PRESS SEPARATELY FEBRUARY 27 THAT THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION AND ITS SPILLOVER EFFECTS ON THAILAND.

2. WITTHAYA WETCHACHIWAN, CHIEF OF THE POLICY PLANNING OFFICE AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EXPRESSED HIS DISMAY ABOUT THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION TO THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR FEBRUARY 27.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 03363 010925Z

WITTHAYA REITERATED A PREVIOUS THEME THAT U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE

HAD NO MEANING FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA WHOSE FATE WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE BIG POWERS. HE COMMENTED THAT WE CERTAINLY KNEW WHERE THE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION WERE COMING FROM THAT WERE CURRENTLY DEVASTATING PHNOM PENH. HE ASKED WHY WE DIDN'T GO TO THE SUPPLIERS OF THE WEAPONS AND ASK THEM TO TURN THEM OFF.

3. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE IN THE PAST FEW DAYS TO THE COMMENTS IN WASHINGTON OF THAI AMBASSADOR ANAN PANYARACHUN. ANAN RELATED THAI SECURITY DIRECTLY TO THE DEFENSE OF CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. A FEBRUARY 27 "BANGKOK POST" EDITORIAL TITLED "FACING THE COMMUNIST BOGEYMAN" (REF A) POINTED OUT THAT "MOSCOW WITH ITS MONOLITHIC SYSTEM HAS BACKED THE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA," WHILE THE U.S. HAS BEEN HALTING ITS AID. AN EDITORIAL IN THE FEBRUARY 28 ISSUE OF "THE NATION" ENTITLED, "WHERE DID THESE ROCKETS COME FROM?" (REF B ECHOES THE COMMENTS OF WITTHAYA AND ANAN.

4. COMMENT: THE THAI ARE UPSET ABOUT THE DRIFT OF EVENTS IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM, AND THE U.S. DIFFICULTY IN COUNTERING THE SITUATION. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO USE SOME OF THIS INDIGENOUS AMMUNITION IN ITS PLEAS TO CONGRESS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.
KINTNER

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